

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, NI (SAM EPELLE)

SUBJ: TRAINING OF INFORMATION OFFICERS IN AMERICAN
UNIVERSITIES

1. FMG INFORMATION OFFICER SAM EPELLE HAS REQUESTED POST'S URGENT ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES WHICH WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A THREE MONTH STUDY PROGRAM DESIGNED TO UPGRADE THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF NIGERIAN FEDERAL AND STATE INFORMATION PERSONNEL. EPELLE WOULD LIKE TO SEND INFORMATION OFFICERS FOR TRAINING IN GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDING USE OF AUDIOVISUAL AIDS, RADIO, FILM, WRITTEN MEDIA AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC SPEAKING, ETC.). MOST PART-

ICIPANTS WOULD BE NIGERIAN COLLEGE GRADUATES. FMG WOULD FUND ALL COSTS. EPELLE BELIEVES SYRACUSE OR BOSTON UNIVERSITIES MIGHT BE WELL-EQUIPPED TO DEVELOP SUCH A COURSE, DRAWING ON EXISTING FACULTY. INITIALLY, FMG WOULD WISH SEND THREE GROUP OF TEN TO TWELVE OFFICERS FOR SUCCEEDING 3 - MONTH COURSES.

2. POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONS WHICH WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A PROPOSAL. AS SOON AS PROSPECTIVE UNIVERSITIES IDENTIFIED, EPELLE WANTS TO COME TO U.S. TO DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH THEM.

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3. EPELLE BELIEVES SUCH A COURSE WOULD HAVE POTENTIAL WIDE-

SPREAD INTEREST AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IF SUCH A COURSE CAN BE ESTABLISHED FOR NIGERIA, HE INTENDS PROMOTE IT AMONG COLLEAGUES AT NOVEMBER MEETING OF AFRICAN INFORMATION OFFICIALS. (WE BELIEVE HE IS CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THAT GROUP.)

4. EPELLE ALSO INTERESTED IN ONE-YEAR POSTGRADUATE STUDY FOR FMG INFORMATION OFFICERS, LEADING TO MASTER'S DEGREE, WHICH WOULD COMBINE DISCIPLINES OF JOURNALISM, PSYCHOLOGY AOD SOCIO-LOGY. HE ALSO WOULD DISCUSS SUCH STUDY PROGRAMS WITH INTERSTED RECOMMENDED UNIVERSITIES WHILE IN THE U.S.

5. EMBASSY AND USIS SEE THIS AS VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BE RESPONSIVE AND HELPFUL TO FMG, A STANCE STRONGLY IN U.S. INTERESTS AS NEW GOVERNMENT SETTLES IN AND GETS ITS BEARINGS. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY, AND WE HOPE POSITIVE, REPLY.
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